

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1102
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1624

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PORG, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE

SUBJ: UNIFIL: ARRANGEMENTS WITH HADDAD/SHIDIAK

REF: USUN 2429

1. HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM MEETING WITH SIILASVUO FOR DEBRIEFING ON HIS JUNE 14 TRIP TO BEIRUT. HE MET WITH SARKIS, HOSS, BOUTROS, KHOURY AND G-2 CHIEF ABDO.
2. WITHOUT SHOWING ME TEXT, SIILASVUO DESCRIBED IN GENERAL TERMS PROBLEMS OF DRAFT MEMORANDUM (REFTEL). HE SAID UNNY HAD ORDERED HIM TO GO TO BEIRUT TO DISCUSS MEMORANDUM WITH
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GOL. NOT HAVING BEEN PARTY TO THE DOCUMENT, SIILASVUO SAID HE REFUSED TO DO THIS. AROUND MIDNIGHT JUNE 13, HE RECEIVED MESSAGE THAT GOL WISHED TO SEE HIM ON JUNE 14, THUS HE HAD NO OPTION BUT TO COMPLY.

3. MEETING STARTED WITH BOUTROS COMPLAINING ABOUT REPORTED JUNE 13 STATEMENT OF ERSKINE TO EFFECT IDF HAD HANDED OVER

SOUTH LEBANON TO HADDAD AND UN WAS IN TOUCH WITH LATTER AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOL IN THE AREA. (NEITHER SIILASVUO NOR WE HAVE SEEN TEXT OF REPORTED STATEMENT.) HOSS STRESSED THAT UNLESS HADDAD COOPERATED WITH UNIFIL AND CONFINED HIS FORCES TO BARRACKS HE WOULD BE CONSIDERED A RENEGADE.

4. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED SIILASVUO WOULD TAKE FOLLOWING LINE IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AFTER THE MEETING (EXACT TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE): GOL REITERATES ITS POSITION UNIFIL'S TASK IS TO CONTROL AND DEPLOY THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON UP TO THE LEBANESE-ISRAELI BORDER. THIS OBJECTIVE HAS NOT YET BEEN FULFILLED BUT EFFORTS ARE UNDER WAY TO ACHIEVE IT.

5. SIILASVUO SAID G-2 CHIEF CLAIMED TO HAVE EVIDENCE ERSKINE HAD AGREED IN WRITING WITH HADDAD ON CONTENTS OF MEMO SUBJECT TO VIEWS OF UNNY. SIILASVUO IS SKEPTICAL OF THIS REPORT. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, SIILASVUO SAID GOL URGED UNIFIL TO PRESS AHEAD EVEN AT RISK OF CONFRONTATION WITH HADDAD. GOL IS CONVINCED HADDAD IS COMPLETELY UNDER THE CONTROL OF GOL. DESPITE GOL'S POSITION, SIILASVUO IS HOPEFUL THAT WITH IDF OUT, HADDAD WILL GRADUALLY ACCOMMODATE HIMSELF TO UNIFIL'S PRESENCE.

6. SIILASVUO HINTED HE HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT MEMO HAD CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN DRAFTED BY IDF COL HAMIZRACHI WHO HAD EXCEEDED HIS AUTHORITY.

7. COMMENT: SIILASVUO CLEARLY PLEASED UNNY HAD ASKED HIM TO PULL THIS PARTICULAR CHESTNUT OUT OF THE FIRE. HE NOTED POSSIBLE PROBLEM IN THAT HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IN BEIRUT MIGHT CONFLICT WITH STATEMENTS MADE BY UNNY GIVING IMPRESSION UNIFIL HAD DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH. CLEARLY, ERSKINE'S CREDIBILITY WITH THE GOL HAS BEEN DAMAGED, TO SAY THE LEAST.
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